



U.S. NRC
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

I/43

Meeting with BLM
Regarding Uranium Recovery Applications
and Agency Environmental Review Processes

June 24, 2009

Purposes of Meeting

- Increase level of understanding of each agency with respect to jurisdiction/authority and environmental review processes
- Identify overlaps in each agency's reviews
- Establish better communication between agencies with respect to review schedules and issues identified during review

Agenda

- NRC authority & review process
- Status of uranium recovery (UR) applications, draft MOU with BLM
- BLM authority & review process
- Open discussion

NRC Roles & Responsibilities

- NRC is an independent agency
- Mission: protect public health and safety and environment, promote common defense and security
- Has responsibility along with Agreement States for licensing commercial use of nuclear materials
- Openness and soliciting comments on our actions is one of our core values

NRC's Licensing Review Process

- Licensing application submitted for review
- Review conducted in two steps:
 - Acceptance review
 - Detailed review
- Detailed review composed of two parts:
 - Site-specific safety review
 - Site-specific environmental review

NRC and NEPA

- NRC's regulations to implement NEPA requirements are in 10 CFR Part 51
- Application for new license, renewal, or amendment initiates NEPA review process
- NRC is not proponent of the action
 - Proposed action - what the applicant/licensee is seeking to do
 - Federal action – NRC approval/denial of application for new license, renewal, or amendment

Types of UR NEPA Documents

- New ISL applications – Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEISs) tiered from the ISL Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
- License renewals, expansions and amendments – Environmental Assessments (EAs)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- Conventional milling/heap leach applications – stand-alone EISs



Sources of Information for Site-Specific Environmental Review

- Applicant's environmental report
- Other relevant information/data
- ISL GEIS
 - Evaluate site-specific information to determine if applicant's proposed action and site characteristics are within the bounds of the GEIS
 - Determine which sections to be incorporated by reference into site-specific review and which sections need further analysis

Example Schedule

EA	SEIS	EIS	Milestone
-90	-90	-90	Begin acceptance review
0	0	0	End acceptance review, begin environmental review
N/A	45	75	Issue NOI for SEIS/EIS and scoping
60	75	90	Site visit
-	-	90	Public scoping meeting(s)
150	165	165	Issue environmental RAIs
270*	300	360	Issue draft NEPA document for public comment
300*	360	435	End public comment period
365	435	555	Issue final NEPA document
N/A	465	585	Agency final decision

* If requested

Current Projects Under Review

- Moore Ranch, Nichols Ranch, Lost Creek
 - Environmental RAIs issued in March 2009
 - Draft SEIS expected to be issued Winter 2009
 - Final SEIS expected to be issued Spring 2010
- JAB and Antelope

Status of WY UR Applications

Company	Site	Type	Estimated App. Date
Lost Creek ISR, LLC	Lost Creek	ISL - New	Rec 03/08, Acc 06/08
Uranerz Energy Corp.	Nichols Ranch	ISL - New	Rec 11/07, Acc 04/08
Uranium One	Moore Ranch	ISL - New	Rec 10/07, Acc 12/07
Uranium One	Jab and Antelope	ISL - New	Rec 9/08, Acc 05/09
Uranium One	Ludeman	ISL - New	05/09
Lost Creek ISR, LLC	Lost Creek	ISL - Expansion	11/09
UR-Energy Corp.	Lost Soldier	ISL - Expansion	11/09
Uranium One	Allemand-Ross	ISL - Expansion	12/09
Cameco	Smith Ranch/Highland	ISL - Expansion	TBD
Strathmore Minerals	Reno Creek	ISL - New	03/11
Wildhorse Energy	West Alkali Creek	ISL - New	12/10
Wildhorse Energy	Sweetwater	ISL and Conv. - New	05/11
Cameco	Ruby Ranch	ISL - Expansion	10/11
Strathmore Minerals	Gas Hills	Conv. - New	10/11

Status of Draft MOU with BLM

- Final revisions submitted by NRC to BLM HQ May XX
- MOU (to be) finalized XXX XX
- Principle purposes of MOU:
 - Encourage routine communication
 - Provide a framework for exchange of data
 - Establish roles and responsibilities
 - Provide an efficient means of fulfilling NEPA requirements

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- Environmental review of Jab and Antelope application

Open Discussion

- Overlaps in each agency's review
- Touch points in schedule for interagency communication
- Timing of document sharing and comment review
- Agency points of contact